

Hood Canal Bridge Pilot Project

Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee

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Prepared by: Jeff Sawyer, Olympic Region Environmental and Hydraulics Manager

Reviewed by: Don Nelson, Director, Environmental and Engineering Programs

Approved by: Doug MacDonald, Secretary of Transportation

Why are we here today?

Our goal is to report on the Hood Canal Bridge pilot project including a summary of actions to date, current status of environmental documentation and funding, and plans for the future project delivery.

Hood Canal Bridge Pilot Project Overview

The eastern half of the Hood Canal Bridge is nearing the end of its structural service life and will not be reliable after 2007. When finished the Hood Canal Bridge will have a new wider east half floating section, new approach sections and transition trusses on the east and west ends. In addition, the west half will be widened to allow for continuous 8-foot shoulders across the entire length of the bridge--matching the new east half.

The challenge faced by this TPEAC pilot project was to provide coordinated permit review in an extremely constrained time frame. An Interdisciplinary Team was created that consisted of staff from WSDOT, Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources; Kitsap County, Jefferson County, NOAA Fisheries, the Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Coast Guard, and the Federal Highway Administration. This team provided a forum for intense project environmental review. In order to expedite project delivery, some agencies have been able to issue draft permit conditions to include in the contract bid specifications so that the project advertisement date could be met.

Where have we been?

- Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) was formed March 2002
- Environmental Assessment completed and Finding of No Significant Impact issued May 2002)
- Submitted Revised Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) and Biological Assessment for bridge and graving yard (late 12/02)
- HPA issued for bridge construction December 2003.
- Submitted Final JARPA for graving yard January 2003.
- HPA issued for graving yard February 2003.
- Construction Contract Advertised February 2003.

Current Status

The final Biological Opinions from the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries have been received this month (May 2003). Permits for the graving dock are due this month from the Army Corps of Engineers (Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10) and the Department of Ecology (Coastal Zone Management Act and Clean Water Act Section 401) and for the bridge from the US Coast Guard (Section 9 Bridge Permit) WSDOT will be evaluating final permit conditions for language affecting contract bid proposals as soon as they are received.

Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2003.

For more information contact:

Jeff Sawyer, Olympic Region Environmental and Hydraulic Manager, 360- 357-2713, sawyerj@wsdot.wa.gov.